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PREFACE TO THE FIRST ENGLISH FROM THE THIRD GERMAN EDITION.

The writer of this work, Professor Braun, has justly been called "the father of local anesthesia." My object in placing his work at the command of the English-speaking surgical profession is to systematize the vague, erratic, and unsatisfactory efforts which have been made in this field for many years, by offering a logical procedure based upon scientific facts and having an exact and undeviating technique.

Considering the brilliant results that are being obtained especially in Germany with infiltration and conduction anesthesia, it is with much pride that we can number among our American confrères, men who were pioneers in this particular form of anesthesia. Matas, Cushing, Corning, Crile and others attempted conduction anesthesia shortly after the introduction of cocaine in 1884. Their methods, however, held but a minor place in surgery until the introduction of the suprarenal preparations and the less toxic substitutes for cocain. It was only after the discovery of the active salts of the suprarenal gland by Takamine in 1901 that the progress of local anesthesia became assured, for without its use anesthesia sufficient for surgical purposes was impossible.

In this translation I have attempted to adhere as closely to the text as the differences in the two languages would permit, for which reason I hope I may be pardoned for the occasional repetitions which Prof. Braun uses in his work to impress certain important facts. Because of the merit of this German text-book it is a pleasure to stand sponsor for the English translation. I am indebted to Prof. Braun for according me the privilege of translating his work, which represents years of patient toil in the perfection of technique, as it exists today.

The profession must and will accept a method of anesthesia which has no mortality, and will use it in many cases which are today being operated upon under general anesthesia. Without casting any reflection upon the men who have devoted

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Local anesthesia : its scientific basis and practical use

by Braun, Heinrich, 1862-1934; Shields, Percy, b.1874

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